

*Annual Report*

OF THE

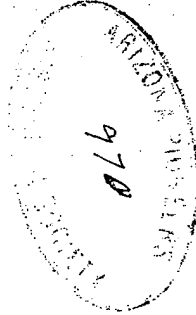
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1881.



WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1881.



be granting of such authority as will enable me to proceed with the construction of  
bees much-needed and, in fact, almost indispensable buildings.

#### THE INDIANS.

The two tribes under my charge are the Mohave and Chim-e-lue-vas, of which the  
latter ranks first in adopting the dress, ways, manners, and customs of the white  
man; also in energy, industry, and enterprise; but they are not more civil, or better  
cheared, or more submissive and obedient to the rules and regulations of the agency  
than are the Mohaves. Their respective numbers, ascertained by an enumeration re-  
cently and carefully made by the agency employes, are as follows:

Mohaves:	
Number of males	412
Number of females	390
Total	802
Chim-e-lue-vas:	
Number of males	107
Number of females	103
Total	210

Two hundred and twenty-nine Mohaves and 56 Chim-e-lue-vas are of school age, or  
between the ages of five and twenty years.

#### SUBSISTENCE.

About one-half of their subsistence, consisting of beef, flour, and salt, is furnished  
under contract, and issued regularly every week during the fall, winter, and spring  
months, to the heads of families; the residue is obtained from the cultivation of the  
oil and from gathering its natural products.

#### EDUCATION.

A boarding-school was inaugurated on the 1st day of March last, under the most  
favorable and encouraging circumstances, and continued in session until the last of  
July, when, owing to the excessive heat, a vacation was deemed advisable, and so  
relaxed until the 1st of September. We hope to resume the school on that date with  
renewed energy. During its session the pupils made almost incredible progress in  
their studies, as evidence of which I will say out of a school averaging twenty-five in  
daily attendance for only five months there were but three or four who could not read  
well in the First Reader, and a class of four was advanced to, and had almost  
finished, the Second Reader. The facility with which these children learned to write  
the progress of the school, and their advancement in other primary branches  
education, show conclusively that their intellectual development only requires time  
and effort on the part of those under whose supervision they are.

I regret exceedingly that the assignment of funds to this agency is so limited as to  
hinder the employment of an assistant teacher for the present fiscal year, for my  
hope of effecting any material changes in the condition of these Indians lies in the  
education of their children. If it be the policy of the government, as I believe it is,  
to civilize the Indian, it is certainly questionable economy to reduce below the actual  
requirements of the service appropriations for educational purposes.

#### MORALS.

In personal integrity, actuated by fear, policy, or conscientiousness, the Indians  
under my charge are the equals of their white neighbors, and superior to the Mexi-  
cans with whom they are associated. During the entire year not a single act of dis-  
onesty perpetrated by the Indians has come to my personal knowledge. Notwith-  
standing their possession of this commendable characteristic, however, they are in  
any other respects, viewed from a moral standpoint, very low indeed. While they  
are not practice or tolerate polygamy, their rules relative to chastity and the marital  
relations are very lax and extremely objectionable; and they adhere almost univer-  
sally to the vice of gambling in some of its forms. They are also very superstitious,  
and notably so with reference to the dead, believing that death is caused by the indig-  
en of their "Yav-a-thee," to appease whose wrath it is necessary to burn, or other-  
wise destroy, buildings and other property belonging to a deceased member of the  
tribe. This superstition alone, if all other conditions were favorable to their civiliza-  
tion, would materially mitigate its progress, for it virtually constitutes a prohibition  
against the building of permanent residences, the continuity of homes, and the fos-  
tering of home influences. The authority of the agent may be advantageously exer-  
cised in prohibiting these vices and the prejudicial results of these superstitions; but,  
I have previously stated, I am thoroughly convinced that for any practical refor-  
mation we must look to the intellectual and moral training of the Indian children.

#### SANITARY.

The general health has been good during the year; the mortality being less than in  
a majority of communities containing a white population equal in numbers. Nearly  
all cases of sickness reported to the agency, except certain contagions, were pulmonary  
deanagements, and confined to the aged and infirm, caused, evidently, by exposure and  
a want of sufficient clothing. Here I would respectfully suggest that some provision  
should be made by which to supply this class of the "nation's wards" with suitable  
apparel for the winter. It is believed that a number of deaths and a great deal of suf-  
fering will be averted by the expenditure of a small fund judiciously invested in this  
direction.

#### INDIAN POLICE.

On the 1st day of April last, having received authority from the honorable Commis-  
sioner of Indian Affairs, I organized an Indian police, consisting of one captain, two  
sergeants, and seven privates, selecting the best disposed and most influential of both  
tribes. Owing to the pacific dispositions of these Indians, the police has had but little  
to do, except in patrolling the various camps and observing the deportment of the  
Indians. I instructed them to not only discourage, but to prohibit absolutely, the ex-  
ecution of the death penalty for witchcraft, and against their "medicine men." To  
their credit, and to the credit of the tribes, I am able to say they have thus far faith-  
fully and effectually discharged the duties imposed upon them, and will further add  
that my skepticism as to the practicability of maintaining an Indian police force on  
the reservation has been thoroughly dispelled.

#### CONCLUSION.

In closing this report, I desire to thank the department, and especially the officials  
directly connected with the Indian Bureau, for their uniform courtesy towards this  
office, and for the promptness and liberality with which my requests have been  
met.

#### THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

JONATHAN HIGGS,  
United States Indian Agent.

MOQUIS PUEBLO INDIAN AGENCY, ARIZONA,  
August 19, 1881.

Sir: I have the honor to submit this my annual report of the condition of the affairs  
of this agency for your consideration, for the years 1880 and 1881, inclusive, from Octo-  
ber 1, the time when I assumed charge, to date.

On my arrival I found only an acting agent, whose time was so much occupied in  
the discharge of other and imperative duties that but little attention could be bestowed  
on this agency by him. The whole affair was in bad condition; the goods for the Moquis  
had been accumulating in the store-rooms of the Navajo agency at Fort Defiance for  
two years; some 30,000 to 40,000 pounds were in store there, with the supplies estimated  
for in 1880, in addition, which began to arrive at that place.

The agency had no team in condition with which to transfer any portion of these  
goods. I determined at once to procure teams as soon as practicable, to make the  
transfer of the goods to the agency, as they were much needed by the people for whom  
they were intended. Then began a serious trouble; teams were difficult to find, and  
drivers refused to engage on account of the scarcity of grass and the long hauls  
between watering stations. There is but one upon which they could with certainty  
depend, about midway, being nearly 50 miles each way from it (I mean Pueblo Colo-  
rado). But by pressing the matter I procured the transfer of a sufficient supply to  
justify me in having a general distribution on the 31st of December, which proved to  
be very satisfactory to the Indians, so that the whole nation seemed to be made glad  
in a day. The last winter proved to be a long and unusually cold one, with the falling  
of much snow, which served to keep the roads in an almost impassable condition until  
late in April. I persevered, however, in my efforts to have the goods brought, although  
in small installments, to the agency, and have, whenever I could procure enough to  
justify, made an issue to the people, until there is but one wagon load remaining at  
Defiance, which is unimportant to the Indians at present. I am trying, however, to  
get that remaining lot brought over. I distributed amongst these people six hundred  
field and garden hoes, which made them quite happy. I have also distributed nearly  
all the goods on hand, in such a manner as to give entire satisfaction. So far as I am  
informed they are contented.

Within a few days, some month of my arrival, the contract teacher arrived with his  
wife and babe, five months old, and a brother. I had only twenty-four hours' notice of  
their near approach. I was puzzled as to how I could dispose of them. I learned that

Mr. T. V. Keams, the post-trader, owned a comfortable house quite near Fort Defiance; I called on him about it. He told me the teacher could occupy it free of rent until I could provide for him at the agency. When he came I told him of the plan. He peremptorily declined, preferring to occupy the agency buildings. There being but three small rooms, I preferred to hold this property for agency purposes, as there were no other accommodations for the agent and the necessary employees in which to transact the business, lodge, and live. Situated as I was, what to do was the matter. I determined to build a house for him at once with Indian labor and by the first of December had a comfortable place for him, in which he located and still remains.

I found two rooms for the agency, which are much needed as store-rooms, partly built, cellar wall and foundations a little above ground. I could not procure lumber for them until in February, 175 miles from the agency. To get it here was the next and very serious difficulty, and I did not get the last of it here until within the past fortnight. I had the walls of stone put up by the Moquis Indians, and by giving special personal attention it is a good dwelling. Last week the floor was put down on the room over the cellar, all in good order. The doors and sash were procured at Sanсет, 70 miles distant by Indian trail, and I had them carried here lashed to the backs of the Moquis donkeys.

All the government property is in good condition, with this exception: The earth or dirt roofs on the buildings have leaked badly during the late very heavy rains, causing some damage to the contents.

Owing to the fact that there was so much for me to do, and the limited facilities at my command with which to accomplish anything, I did not visit the Moquis villages until the 19th of January, at which time they told me they were comfortable. I tried to inform myself somewhat as to their real condition by visiting from house to house. The result was, I found they had plenty to eat, and had blankets, sheepskins, and the like to keep them warm in their lodgings. But I was and am still disgusted at their pretenses that should prevail between the sexes, as well as the old and the young, married and single, living and lodging indiscriminately together in the same apartments; which condition of the social phase should receive the special attention of the government by helping them house their families in separate homes in the valleys, where by irrigation of their crops they can produce not only a good living but a surplus to good profit to these people. Thus housed and homed, the school-teacher in his day-school and the missionary in his church would find a field in which to work and gather many sheaves for the garner.

The truth is, the agency is not located at the place where the most good can be accomplished for these people. The question of a better location has been forcibly discussed by my predecessors before I had any occasion to say anything about it, but I have made some suggestions in favor of a change which are quite sufficient to my mind to justify such action.

The Moquis people are an industrious, temperate, economical race of men; quiet and polite in their intercourse with each other, and very friendly towards white men, and as honest as Indians know how to be. Of course their standing in ethics is not as high as that of more civilized communities, but I am satisfied they will soon improve in morals, as well as in general intelligence, if they can be induced to leave their old mesa homes and settle in the valley.

It is estimated that they have in cultivation about 10,000 acres of land, from which they stored away about 4,000 bushels of corn last fall for bread purposes, besides thousands of melons, squashes, pumpkins, beans, dried peaches, and onions. They also dry a great deal of green corn and pumpkins for winter and spring supplies.

They seem to be anxious to have their children in school. Situated as they are in their permanent homes, I am inclined to the opinion that day-schools located at or near their villages would be well attended and accomplish much good for them. When suitable buildings and accommodations are provided, a boarding-school might be well attended, and also be of great service in the way of instructing them. It is important that they be educated in all that pertains to a self-supporting, intelligent people, which can only be brought about by a patient, persevering course of treatment. It is, however, a question of time, depending largely upon those who are placed over them. Intelligent, experienced men of business, who are not sentimental enthusiasts on specialties, but practical men, are required for this service—men who can take in the whole situation, and gradually influence them to do in an intelligent way, what is best for themselves. I have had abundant evidence that they think and reason upon subjects when presented to their minds in a practical manner.

The Moquis begin to realize that they need many things, and that by adopting the white man's plan of obtaining them they too might possess all such. In these matters they begin also to admit the superiority of the white man over them. To be even, they will soon receive and act upon the white man's advice, hence the great impor-

tance attaching to practical, common-sense advice for these people. The Moquis are an agricultural people, all of whom work, and they would also give much attention to the raising of stock, if located in the valley and were supplied with sufficient stock to start their flocks and herds, which should be of good quality and grade.

Their sanitary condition is much improved since I came to them, and is continually improving under the assiduous attention of the physician, who spends much of his time in their villages, who has his office and lodges in the government building located in the second village.

These people seldom plant upon the same lands a second crop, but plant a new or rested patch each year; hence the large estimate of lands cultivated by them; it includes all the lands held by them for cultivation.

They are a peculiar people, and to me a very interesting branch of the human family, presenting some of the best characteristics known to civilized man, occasionally giving strong proof of the fact of their fathers having once enjoyed the advantages of a high degree of intelligence, the vestiges of which have come to them through a long line of succession from sire to son. Their faults as seen by us from our standpoint are the results of their system of education, which, being so different from our own, we find cause to complain, and doubtless criticize with unjustifiable severity. Inclosed with this please find my annual statistical report.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

JOHN H. SULLIVAN,

United States Indian Agent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

PIMA INDIAN AGENCY, ARIZONA, August 26, 1881.

SIR: The short time, two months, in which I have had control of this agency does not give the requisite experience for an extended yearly report, and I shall be obliged to draw from the experience of my predecessor, Special Agent E. B. Townsend, who is a man of great energy, and thoroughly imbued with a desire to improve the condition of the Indians, and who probably accomplished as much good work as was ever done before at this agency in the same length of time.

#### FARMING.

The Indians of this reservation have raised this season a good crop of wheat and barley and an abundance of melons, &c., the rainfall having been greater than for a number of years. They seem greatly encouraged in their farming operations. They have also planted an unprecedented amount of beans, and the crop looks promising. As a rule, these Indians seem to be a cheerful, industrious, and hardworking people; therefore, it is a pleasure to assist and instruct them. They are entirely self-supporting. They seem to appreciate the improved farming implements given them, such as plows, hoes, &c., together with all instructions as to their proper use.

#### INDIAN POLICE.

The police force organized here last January by Special Agent Townsend has proven a power for good, its influence being felt and appreciated by all law-abiding people in or near the reservation. The drunken carousals heretofore indulged in at their feasts, at which dancing, sham fights, games, &c., occur, usually ending in one or more murders, have entirely disappeared. As to those petty thefts, which are so annoying, I can safely say that they are a thing of the past, and that now I candidly believe that there is not a place or people where the rights of property are better respected than among the Indians on this reservation. This state of affairs has been brought about by the police force, which is composed of an excellent body of men.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

A day-school has been in successful operation here since the spring of 1871, the last two years with J. S. Armstrong and wife as teachers. The most effective way, in my opinion, to educate these children is to take them away from home influence and put them in charge of interested and competent teachers in boarding-schools. We propose commencing such a school here as early as possible in September, to accommodate 75 boarding scholars, and a day-school of 35 pupils. The parents and chiefs of the tribes express themselves strongly in favor of schools, and from indications I think this school will do much towards civilizing the families of the children who will attend.

But for a population of 11,000 Indians I think that one school is insufficient, and suggest that day-schools be started in every village where an average attendance of fifty can be secured. Then, as a reward of merit, the most advanced scholars from the day-schools can be sent to the agency boarding-school. The Pima Indians are among the best on the continent, and are thoroughly interested in education. If